



PRENATAL ULTRASOUND

Weeks 6-11: Ultrasound for Size and Dates

- Dating based on your last menstrual period can be very inaccurate. Ultrasound done early in the first trimester allows for accurate dating of the pregnancy. Since the fetus (baby) is extremely small, it also allows for better visualization of maternal structures (uterus, ovaries, and fallopian tubes), and gives us the ability to detect abnormalities very early. However, if this ultrasound is performed too early (before 7 weeks gestation), the fetus may not be developed enough to get all of the information needed and you may be asked to return in 1-2 weeks.

Weeks 12-13: Nuchal Translucency (NT) and First Trimester Screen

- NT is a non-invasive screening ultrasound that is used in the first trimester to detect Down syndrome, trisomy 18, or other problems. The results of the nuchal translucency screening are then combined with those of two blood tests and the mother's age to assess the risk for the fetus. Since there is only a very short window to obtain the necessary measurements, it is extremely important that we have accurately dated the pregnancy with a size/date ultrasound first.
- First trimester screening tests include blood tests and an ultrasound exam (NT). First trimester screening is used to determine the risk of Down syndrome, trisomy 18, and open neural tube defects. The timing of genetic screening tests is important because levels of the substances measured change throughout the pregnancy.

Weeks 18-20: Level 1 Detail Ultrasound

- This ultrasound is used to screen for malformations and appropriate fetal growth. This ultrasound provides very detailed measurements of the fetus. This is also a great opportunity for you to get some great pictures of your new baby!

Weeks 36-37: Growth Scan

- This ultrasound is used to check and see that the baby growth is appropriate and confirm the baby's head is down.